[Speech for Fred "Smith"]

For the past twelve years I have tried to become a good actor. I have studied and worked with little theater groups, stock companies, the Actors Lab here in Hollywood, and in a very small way, in motion pictures. In a personal sense I feel that I've achieved some success. I believe that I've developed what talent I have so that I'm a better actor now than I was twelve years ago.

But an actor's opinion of himself is not the index of his success. If it were, maybe there would be no unsuccessful actors. I've won no awards. I've received no recognition from the public. Except in the somewhat prejudiced eyes of my wife and my small daughter, I've had no success.

But one Monday morning I was awarded a subpoena by the Un-American Activities Committee of the House of Representatives, and suddenly I found recognition thrust upon me. Before that Monday morning very few movie producers knew my name. I have worked in films an aggregate of only eight weeks in the last few years. Since that Monday morning every producer in Hollywood knows my name -- even though many of you here turned to the person on either side of you when my name was announced -- and asked "Who is he?"

Overnight, I found a prominence that my talent as an actor had not earned. I was cast in a (non-paying) role alongside the creative artists whose work I most respect.

I had very complex reactions to receiving that subpoena. I know that I was a little frightened at first, but I was also a little proud. I was proud and flattered at the company I was placed in. But when I tried to trace back my activities through the years to find the things that had won me the right to this recognition -- I became ashamed.

I never spoke up boldly against injustices suffered by minority groups in this country, although I deplored that evil. I never gave more than lip-service to the struggle to win economic and civil rights for the American people. Except for signing a petition to outlaw the atom bomb, I never took any concrete action to help insure a peaceful life for my child and yours. I never had a position of leadership, or even responsibility, in any of the many organizations that have struggled for these things in which I believe.

Then why was I subpoenaed?

The reason that another Hollywood investigation was undertaken is made clear in an article by Frank Rogers, the Washington correspondent of the Daily News. Mr. Rogers' report, dated March 6, deals with the fact that some members of HUAC were considering an investigation of charges that Communist agents are crossing the Mexican border with Mexican agricultural workers who are entering this country illegally. The article goes on to say: [He quotes the article which makes the point that the Committee is drawn to the film industry because it generates greater publicity than any of its other "investigations."]

That explains why Hollywood. But why me? -- Fred Smith, Unknown.

I did a lot of thinking about this. Almost hopefully I wondered if maybe the part I had in "Union Station" was weightier than I realized. It was certainly the biggest part I've ever had in pictures, and it actually gave me a chance to act.

Maybe I was really getting to be important... Or a little bit important... Or, at least -- but, no -- this wishful thinking lasted about ten seconds and I faced the fact that I was still Fred Smith, Unknown.

But I hadn't answered the question of why a group of men in Washington who make a profession out of sniping at their betters should bother with small fry like me. I tried to figure out where these investigations fitted into the whole pattern of today.

A witness is asked if he's a member of the Communist Party. If he <u>is</u> a Communist and answers the question, he is blacklisted from his job. If he's <u>not</u> a Communist and answers the question, he may face a perjury charge -- if he has a progressive record. There are long lists of organizations that have been arbitrarily declared to be Communist or Communist Front enterprises. Membership in any of these is the same as membership in the Communist Party -- in the eyes of the Un-American Activities Committee.

So, as a non-Communist progressive, answering the question may present you with a perjury trial as well as the blacklist. (The Hollywood Ten, you may remember, were blacklisted when they were <u>charged</u> with contempt of Congress, long before they were convicted in the lower courts.)

Communist or non-Communist... answer or not... if you're a progressive, you're threatened with the blacklist. If an Academy Award winning actor is blacklisted, or if a brilliant and successful screenwriter is blacklisted -- it might not ring any warning bells in you who go about your anonymous jobs, unmolested as yet.

But if the finger is pointed at Fred Smith, Unknown -- then all other unknowns had better watch out.

The goal is conformity for the entire population. The minimum penalty for non-conformity is loss of livelihood. It has already spread far beyond the entertainment fields into education and science; and screening has become a practice in some trade unions.

The word Communist has been stretched to include all progressives. The word progressive will be stretched to include any kind of non-conformist thinking.

You can lay low and hope that it's not moving toward you -- or you can resist while you still can. If you don't resist now, there may come a time when you <u>can't</u> resist.

To those of you who turned to your neighbors when I was introduced, and asked "Who is he?" -- my answer is: "Who are you?"

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